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The Revolt in Christmas Land

AN OPERETTA

By E. Lawrence Jenkins



PRICE 25 CENTS

HINTS PUBLISHING COMPANY
53 and 54 Bible House, 9th St. and 4th Ave.
NEW YORK

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The Revolt in Christmas-Land.

An Operetta for Christmas Time or Any Other Time.

BY E. LAWRENCE JENKINS.

CHARACTERS.

Santa Claus.	
Winkle,	Bumble,
Twinkle,	Crumble,
	Gnomes.
Jingle,	Grumble,
Chorus of Brownies.	Chorus of Gnomes.
Fairy Queen and Chorus of Fairies.	

COSTUMES—Santa Claus, the Fairy Queen and the Fairies—Regulation and traditional costumes. The Fairies have long spears. Brownies—Tight-fitting suits of dark color, with caps, for which see various illustrations by Palmer Cox. Gnomes—Little old men, with wigs and long beards; dark tunics, belted; caps similar to skating caps, knee breeches and pointed shoes. See illustrations in books of fairy tales.

SCENERY—Santa Claus's work shop. Tables or work benches at right and left, covered with toys and bundles. Bundles, sleds, bicycles, &c., lying about; toys, dolls, &c., hanging on the walls. (If this piece is presented at a Christmas festival, the presents sent in for the children can be utilized.) Gnomes at work at benches and about the stage, the latter at work on bicycles, sleds and larger gifts.

CHORUS OF GNOMES.

AIR: "ANVIL CHORUS, "*"Il Trovatore."*"

Steadily working from morn until evening,
With never a pleasure in all that we do!
Working for others without any let-up,
And never a leisure for me and you.

Work, work, we work all day!
We have no rest or pleasure!
Work, work, we work all day!
And not a moment's leisure!

Yes, work, work, work, work, work all day!
We're tired of working! We're tired of working!
We are so tired! so tired!

BUMBLE—(*At table, throwing down toy*)—
I'm through with this! This yearly Christmas work

Is using me all up! I am no shirk
But this grind, grind, from morning until night,
And then again from night until the light
Is just too much for me!

GNOMES—So say we all.

CRUMBLE—And what's the use! Since early in the Fall
We've been hard at it. I should like some play
To sandwich in 'twixt working all the day!

BUMBLE—

Old Santa seems to think that every one
Had rather work than eat or have some fun!

GRUMBLE—I'd like some fun and rest.

CRUMBLE—And so would I.

GNOMES—So say we all.

GRUMBLE—All right; suppose we try
And just see how it seems! I say let's strike!

GNOMES—Strike! What is that?

GRUMBLE—(*Takes center of stage, the others gather about.*)
Here, Bumble, take this bike.

Good fellow citizens, assembled here!
Our wrongs must be redressed!

BUMBLE—They must!

GNOMES—Hear, hear!

GRUMBLE—You ask what is a strike? I'm proud right here
To answer that same question without fear.
A strike, my friends, is, when you're tired of working
And do not wish to get a name for shirking,
You hatch up grievances, abuse and wrong;
The wages are too small, the hours too long;
You ask for more—

GNOMES—What, hours?

GRUMBLE—Not a whit.

More wages; if refused, stop work and "git!"
You never get an answer satisfactory,
And so, to even get, you burn the factory.

CRUMBLE—Let's burn it now.

GNOMES—Hurrah! (*They start.*)

GRUMBLE—Hold, just a minute.

CRUMBLE—What's the use to wait! Burn all that's in it!

BUMBLE—But when we're loafing, what supports us, pray?

Will Santa Claus the same our wages pay?

GRUMBLE—

You bet he won't. But then it is a rarity
That foolish mortals will not dish out charity.
We loaf, and growl, and prowl where troubles lurk,
When tired of this we then go back to work.

BUMBLE—And do we get short hours and wages more?

GRUMBLE—Sometimes, not often. But we get a score of fun.

CRUMBLE—That's what we want.

BUMBLE—You're right.

Gnomes—Hurrah!

Crumble—Let's strike?

Gnomes—We will!

Crumble—Stop work just where you are. (*They fling down toys, &c., pile up bundles.* *Exit singing*):

Air: "ANVIL CHORUS."

We're tired of working, we're tired of working,
We'll now have fun; such fun!

(*Brownies crawl out of all sorts of places: boxes, barrels, under tables, &c. They advance to front.*)

Chorus of Brownies.

Air: "FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE SPRING.—Mikado.

The Brownies we are, and we sing tra-la!

As happy as happy can be!

We work for Old Santa, and sing tra-la?

And make the old work-shop resound, tra-la!

Oh! none quite as happy as we!

And this is the song that we're singing all day!

Whether at work or whether at play;

Tra la la la la! Tra la la la la!

The happy gay Brownies are we!

The Brownies we are, and we dance all day!

At least when from work we're free.

We laugh and we shout and we prance all day,

If clouds ever come, why, we drive 'em away.

Oh! none quite as happy as we!

And this is the song, &c.

(*During the chorus "Tra la la" the Brownies join hands in a circle and dance.*)

Winkle—Well, here's a go! a strike in Christmas land!

Winkle—I never did think much of that Gnome band,

They're always sulky!

Jingle—What will Santa say?

Winkle—When he finds out there'll be the deuce to pay.

Leave their work, and that on Christmas eve!

Winkle—He ought to hang them all!

Jingle—I don't believe

He would; not at the blessed Christmas time,

When all should think of love.

Winkle—That's so, you're right.

Winkle—I feel so mad, the whole of 'em I'd fight!

Jingle—You'd stand no chance to fight that ugly crew.

Tell Santa, that's the best thing we can do.

Winkle—They'll mischief breed, of that there is no doubt.

Winkle—If that's the case, it's our place to look out;

Keep our eyes peeled, "watch out" as children say.

Just let me catch 'em! By this country's laws I'll fix 'em.

Jingle—That we will!

Brownies—Hail Santa Claus!

(*Enter Santa Claus.*)

Song—"SANTA CLAUS," Air: (*My Heart Goes Pit-a-pat.*)

SANTA—I am known as Santa Claus.

BROWNIES—Santa Claus!

SANTA—I am loved by all because,

BROWNIES—All because.

SANTA—

I am bound by best of laws.
Law of love for children dear.
Every year I bring to earth,
On the day that hails the birth
Of the One to whom we bow;
Who loved us then and loves us now.
I am known as &c.

I am known as Santa Claus,
I am known by all because,
Christmas time I never pause
'Till I have been everywhere.
Busily throughout the year
We're at work as you see here,
Making presents, which I'll bring
To the children. So I sing:
"I am &c."

SANTA—What's this! No workmen! everything neglected!
Work not half finished, when it is expected
That all will be ready at twelve o'clock!

WINKLE—Sir, may I speak and tell you why the block?

SANTA—Speak on.

WINKLE—Well, sir, the gnomes have all revolted.

SANTA—Revolted!

WINKLE—Yes, and every one has bolted. They're on a strike.

SANTA—It strikes me that is queer,

To leave me in the lurch this time o' year!

TWINKLE—They say they're tired, the hours far too long, the wages low.

JINGLE—Abused!

SANTA—There they are wrong.

But for my care, they'd been out in the cold,

I've cared for them for years and years untold.

Clothed, fed and housed them, paid them more than well.

Now to desert me.

WINKLE—One can never tell

Just what those chaps will do.

TWINKLE—We'll keep an eye

Upon them, if they any mischief try!

JINGLE—if we but catch them we will make them walk!

WINKLE—I'd hang the whole lot of them.

BROWNIES—That's the talk!

SANTA—Jump on your wheels and off to Fairy Land,

Summon the Queen and all her fairy band.

Tell her the tale, and say I need her aid,

In love of children she will be repaid.

If I cannot go forth to-night! Hey-day!
What will the children do! Mount and away!

(*Brownies get their bicycles.*)

SONG—SANTA CLAUS. Air: From "*The Grand Duchess.*"

Off you go, my faithful little Brownies,
Off you go on your swift machine!
Off you go to summon all the fairies,
Off you go to the Fairy Queen.

BROWNIES—

Fairy Queen! Fairy Queen!

Off we go on our swift machine. (*Repeat.*) (*Exit Brownies.*)

SANTA—How swift they ride! They'll surely bring me aid.

For all I've done for the Gnomes, to be thus paid

I can't do more than wait 'till help I see,

But this is the worst thing that has come to me! (*Exit.*)

(*Enter Gnomes mysteriously.*)

CHORUS OF GNOMES. Air “CONSPIRATORS’ CHORUS. (“*La Fille de Mme. Angot.*”)

When one's conspiring, one must be bold,
Fear not and to the things he's told.
His conscience tough, his hands be free
To do the deeds of villainy.

(*Softly*) Hush! Careful be! All's well.
Hush! Careful be! All's well.

(*Loudly*) We are conspirators so bold,
We are conspirators so bold,
Intent on villan-ee. All's well.

GRUMBLE—Hush! not a sound; be brave. You hear?

GNOMES—We do.

GRUMBLE—'Tis well. Each heart above all fear.

GNOMES—It is.

GRUMBLE—'Tis well. Hush! hush! We hear their plan,
And ready are to foil it. Let each man
To work and build a wall so high and stout
That it will serve to keep the fairies out.
We'll foil them yet!

BUMBLE—We will.

GNOMES—Ha! ha!

GRUMBLE—To work!

This time your life's at stake, let no man shirk.

(*The Gnomes build a wall across the back. This may be done by having two large, high screens, one on each side, made of thin paper, of stone color, and lined to represent blocks of masonry, or* “brick paper,” which may be purchased in sheets which represent bricks, and can be pasted together to look like a brick wall. The paper must be thin enough to allow the fairies to break through easily. As the Gnomes work, bustling about in and out, the two screens must gradually be slid out to represent a section as fast as completed, and finally slid together. The Gnomes stand and admire their work.*)

CHORUS—GNOMES. *Same air as last part of Conspirators' Chorus.*

It is done! It is done! Hurrah!
We are conspirators so bold, etc.

(Exit mysteriously.)

(Enter Santa Claus.)

SANTA—It's time the Queen was here, the moments fly.

Soon I must speed o'er plain and mountain high;
The children wait for Santa to appear.

(Sees the wall.)

My goodness sakes! Great snakes! What have we here!
A massive wall! Ah! That's the Gnomes' last trick
To keep the fairies out. Their heads are thick
To think to keep out fairies! (Music heard.) There
they are,

I knew they's quickly come. They are not far.

FAIRY QUEEN—(Outside the wall.)

Open the gates. Good Santa Claus, we're here!
We bring you help, and now you need not fear.
Open the gates!

SANTA—I can't, good Fairy Queen,

The Gnomes have walled you out, as may be seen.

FAIRY QUEEN—What, walled us out! What were those Gnomes
about!

Do they suppose they can keep fairies out!

Stone walls are but as paper; you will see.

Attention, sisters all! March! one, two, three!

MUSIC.

(*The fairies, four abreast, march through the walls, march down to front, separate right and left by twos, march to back, then to front; separate right and left, march, single file, forming two lines at sides, march forward forming an arch with their spears through which enters the Fairy Queen. As they enter, beginning just before they break through, and during the march, they sing:*)

CHORUS OF FAIRIES. Air: "SOLDIER'S CHORUS."—Faust.

Forward! to aid good old Santa Claus!

Forward! to help him in his good cause!

Forward! to fight those who offend his laws!

Yes, ready to fight, yes, ready to fight for Santa Claus!

FAIRY QUEEN—(Solo.)

We lack not courage, and our hearts are true,

We gladly come, our help we bring to you.

Who would turn from one whose need is great?

When foes within and out on mischief wait!

FAIRIES—Forward! to aid, etc.

(*The fairies resume the march at the chorus, and at the end form a line at side. Left. The Brownies enter through the wall after the Queen, but not through the arch, and form a line on the right. Santa Claus at back.*)

After the chorus, Santa Claus and the Queen meet in the centre.

SANTA—Good Queen, I thank you and your fairies all

Who come so promptly at my urgent call.

(*Fairies bow.*)

SONG—QUEEN, SANTA AND CHORUS. AIR: “To GUARD THE CITY.” *Genevieve de Brabant.*

FAIRY QUEEN—Our fairy band is willing,

FAIRIES—Indeed, we really are,

FAIRY QUEEN—To help you, never failing,

FAIRIES—Gnomes, success shall never bar.

FAIRY QUEEN—We will work and labor steadily,
Work for you and for the cause.

We're sure to win!

FAIRIES AND BROWNIES—We're sure to win!

FAIRY QUEEN—We're sure to win.

FAIRIES AND BROWNIES—We're sure to win.

We'll win for Santa Claus.

(*Repeat the last five lines.*)

SANTA—Kind friends, I thank you heartily,

BROWNIES (*bowing*)—And so, indeed, do we.

SANTA—I accept your offer cheerfully,

BROWNIES—In that we do agree.

SANTA—The Gnomes have tried most spitefully thus to betray
our cause,

But we shall win!

FAIRIES AND BROWNIES—But we shall, etc.

(*Gnomes heard outside.*) “We are conspirators so bold!”

SANTA—The Gnomes! They are returning!

QUEEN—Let all hide!

Some of you there, and some upon that side.

(*All hide in right and left wings. Stage clear. Enter Gnomes mysteriously with bombs.*)

CHORUS—GNOMES. AIR: (“Conspirators’ Chorus.”)

With our bombs so deadly, in our hands we bring

Now the final act of our revenge we'll spring,

Then, oh, what destruction, they will be the cause,

Destruction to the realm of Santa Claus.

Hush! What's that, etc.

GRUMBLE—Now to complete the work; these bombs we'll try,
And blow the whole concern up!

GNOMES—Up sky-high!

GRUMBLE—Put one down here.

CRUMBLE—Look! look! the walls caved in!

The fairies have arrived, and have got in!

BUMBLE—You fools, to think to keep the fairies out!

CRUMBLE—Scatter each man! Our trick has been found out!

(*All start.*)

GRUMBLE—Hold! Light your bombs first! Quick! Quick!

FAIRY QUEEN—(*Stepping out, followed by fairies.*) Stay!

Stir not an inch, or else your lives will pay!

You are our prisoners!

SANTA—Brownies, guard each one!

Woe to the Gnome who does resist or run!

(*Brownies step forth and each lays a hand on a Gnome.*)

SANTA—Oh, foolish Gnomes! Your plot has come to naught.

What shall be done with them?

WINKLE—I say they ought

To suffer death.

BROWNIES—So say we all!

SANTA—What say our fairy friends?

QUEEN—Not death; on Christmas Day one should forgive.

FAIRIES—(*Holding out hands pleadingly.*) Forgive!

GНОMES—(*Kneeling.*) Mercy! Forgive!

GRUMBLE—We do repent!

SANTA—We'll see; rise up and live. (*They rise.*)

But for your crime, this punishment shall be:

Work on as slaves, as you did once work free.

To work for others, to endure the shame,

For mortal children work, and in His name.

P'raps in the future your chains may be riven,

And pardon find, and may be then forgiven.

Now to your benches, finish up your work,

And woe be unto him whose task doth shirk.

(*To audience.*) Children of earth, when Christmas joys you reap,

Think of these wicked ones in dungeons deep,

For sins committed, they must bear the pain,

If they repent, we'll pardon them again.

Fairies and Brownies, you so kind to me,

I only say, I thank you heartily.

FINALE—Air: "*Grand Duchess.*"

SANTA—Thanks to you my faithful little Brownies,

Thanks to you my little fairy queen,

Thanks to you my dainty little fairies,

Truer friends were never seen.

ALL—Santa Claus! Fairy Queen!

Truest friends, we've ever seen!

CURTAIN.

*NOTE.—The following music used in this Operetta sent postpaid on receipt of price: The Anvil Chorus, 11 cents; The Soldiers' Chorus, 13 cents; Flowers That Bloom in the Spring, 11 cents; My Heart Goes Pit-a-Pat, 30 cents; Conspirators' Chorus, 30 cents; To Guard the City, 30 cents.

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